

Application No. 10/768,414

Amendment dated 07/27/2005 responding to Office Action dated 04/27/2005

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, and 10 as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1 **1.** (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

2 a housing having a distal edge and a proximal edge and a longitudinal exterior dimension
3 from the distal edge to the proximal edge; and

4 exactly one tape retractably coilable within the housing and extending from the distal
5 edge of the housing, wherein the tape includes,

6 a top side,

7 a bottom side,

8 a distal end,

9 a first set of distance marks on the top side functionally identifying positions
10 relative to the distal end, and

11 a set of inside measure distance indicators on the top side each for indicating a
12 distance from the distal end of the tape to a corresponding distance mark plus the
13 longitudinal exterior dimension of the housing,

14 whereby the apparatus may be employed to perform an inside measurement
15 whose value is indicated by a portion of the tape extending from the housing.

1 **2.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tape further includes:

2 a set of outside measure distance indicators on the top side each for indicating a distance
3 from the distal end of the tape to a corresponding distance mark;

4 whereby the apparatus may be employed to perform an outside measurement whose value
5 is indicated by a portion of the tape extending from the housing.

1 **3.** (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

2 the first set of distance marks includes major marks and minor marks; and

3 the longitudinal exterior dimension of the housing is a whole multiple of a distance
4 between adjacent major marks.

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1 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
2 an end piece coupled to the tape.

1 5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein:
2 the end piece is coupled to the tape so as to have a predetermined distance of longitudinal
3 slop;
4 whereby the end piece can be used in making outside measurements and inside
5 measurements.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein:
2 the end piece is rigidly coupled to the tape and includes a portion which is perpendicular
3 to the tape for hooking over an end of an object to be outside measured; and
4 the tape further includes a second set of distance marks on the top side functionally
5 identifying positions relative to ~~the~~ the proximal face of the perpendicular portion of the end
6 piece.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the tape further includes:
2 a set of outside distance indicators on the top side each for indicating a distance from the
3 perpendicular portion of the end piece to a corresponding outside distance indicator.

1 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 the first set of distance marks includes major marks and minor marks; and
3 the longitudinal dimension of the housing is not an integer multiple of a distance between
4 adjacent major marks.

1 **9.** (Currently Amended) An improvement in a tape measure, the tape measure including a
2 housing having a longitudinal dimension from a distal edge to a proximal edge, and exactly one
3 retractable tape having a top side, a bottom side, and a distal end and bearing distance marks on
4 the top side and distance indicators on the top side, wherein the improvement comprises:
5 the distance indicators providing measurements from the distal end of the tape to the
6 proximal edge of the housing;

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7 whereby inside measurements may be directly made ~~with~~ by reading the top side of the
8 tape of the improved tape measure without a user having add in the distance of the longitudinal
9 dimension.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The improvement of claim 9 in the tape measure, wherein the
2 improvement further comprises:

3 ~~separate~~ inside distance marks on the top side and inside distance indicators on the top
4 side for inside measurement; and
5 outside distance marks on the top side and outside distance indicators on the top side for
6 outside measurement.

1 11. (Original) The improvement of claim 10 in the tape measure, wherein the improvement
2 further comprises:

3 an end piece rigidly coupled to the tape and including a perpendicular section; and
4 the inside measurement distance marks being offset along the tape from the outside
5 measurement distance marks by a distance corresponding to a thickness of the perpendicular
6 portion of the end piece.

1 12. (Original) The improvement of claim 9 in the tape measure, wherein the improvement
2 further comprises:

3 an end piece slideably coupled to the tape;
4 the distance marks including major marks and minor marks;
5 the distance indicators comprising outside measurement distance indicators and inside
6 measurement distance indicators; and
7 the longitudinal dimension of the housing is an integer multiple of a distance between
8 adjacent major marks;
9 whereby the outside distance indicators and the inside distance indicators are enabled to
10 share the same set of distance marks.